



The McCoy's: Mike (foreground in cap), Michele (wearing light jacket) and Sue, in between the two. They were first in line when Pink Floyd tickets

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went on sale Saturday morning at Camp Randall Stadium. Security supervisor Art Frische is in foreground.

—State Journal photo by Chris Corsmeier

Waiting to be seated

Pink Floyd faithful stake claims

By Renee Botta

Of The State Journal

The McCoy's do Floyd.

The McCoy family of Madison was first in line when the box office opened Saturday morning at Camp Randall Stadium for Pink Floyd tickets.

They had been camping out since 2 p.m. Thursday for tickets to the May 20 concert.

After 43 hours of waiting, five family members emerged from the ticket office with 36 tickets, the best of which were in the 13th row.

Was it worth waiting 43 hours for 13th-row seats? "Oh yeah!" said Mike McCoy, 17.

Their seats may even be better than front row, said Herb Frank, concert promoter, who said the best seats are actually 12 to 15 rows back from the stage because the stage is 18 feet off the ground.

"We're really happy with the seats we got," said Sue McCoy, 46, who bought eight tickets for herself and her friends.

Some of the McCoy's learned their lesson about being too close during a previous Pink Floyd concert, known for elaborate stage shows.

Marie McCoy, 21, who is flying in from Florida for the concert, and Michele McCoy, 22, who was in line Saturday, saw Pink Floyd in Milwaukee last year and got stiff necks because they pushed their way too close to the giant stage, Sue said.

Meanwhile, Sue's husband, Frank McCoy, is not a Floyd fan. But he may be at the concert anyway — working. Frank is a Madison police detective supervisor who sometimes works concerts.

The McCoy's spent their time at Camp Randall sleeping, eating, smoking and drinking. "What else?" asked Michele.

Pizza deliverers came and went throughout the night, said Art Frische, the security supervisor who worked all night in the stadium.

Frische, who has been working crowd control for the university for 14 years, said the crowd was "wonderful," adding that he was especially pleased because they cleaned up after themselves.

Frische started assigning numbers at 4:30 p.m. Friday, telling people they were not allowed to leave the "tunnel," an area of the stadium under the seats.

"I did excuse two or three who had to work the night shift," Frische admitted.

About half of the available tickets to Pink Floyd's May 20 concert were sold Saturday and sales will resume today, said Fred Frank, son of concert promoter Herb Frank. About 27,200 tickets were sold in all. Sales will continue today at all sites tickets were sold Saturday, he said.

The rest of the about 200 who stayed the night were happy to be indoors and under cover.

Dave Emmert, 18, of Madison, explained what it was like after being inside Camp Randall for 17 hours. "It warps your sense of time."

Emmert and his friends, Scott Nicholas, 18, Geoff Steinhart, 18 and Mark Ott, 15, all of Madison, spent the night drinking Mountain Dew and playing a board game called Risk.

"We played five games of Risk," Ott said, adding that it takes at least two hours to play each game.

Fifteen minutes before ticket sales began, the line of about 600 people began to stir.

At 9 a.m., the crowd screamed, whistled and applauded as Frische announced ticket sales had begun.

Of the 52,000 tickets, Camp Randall was originally given 1,300 to sell. Those were gone by 10 a.m., said Wayne Kuckkahn, assistant UW ticket manager. He called and requested 1,500 more, 1,000 of which were sold by 1 p.m. The tickets are \$20 each.

On the other side of campus, the line at the Madison Civic Center squeezed its way inside, where tickets were also sold.

Pink Floyd fans inched their way along, wrapped in blankets and sleeping bags. Those who had stayed the night dealt with rain, dropping temperatures and snow flurries.

A group in the middle of the line had been there since about 4:30 a.m. The seven had never met before but talked and joked like old friends.

"My mind is too numb to remember what we did during the past five hours," said Heather Clark, 21, of La Crosse.

Although they said the concert will be worth the wait, they agreed they would not wait in line outside again in March.

Lines formed all over Madison, Milwaukee, Janesville, Green Bay and even Rockford, Ill., said Frank, who spent Saturday keeping tabs on ticket sales.